

Date: February 2017

To: Authorized Representatives Participating in the Wisconsin USDA Foods Program

From: Dino Ante, School Nutrition Team

Subject: Department of Defense (DoD) Fresh Produce Program

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Department of Defense (DoD) have partnered together to increase the availability of a wide variety of fresh fruits and vegetables delivered directly to School Food Authorities (SFAs) participating in the USDA Foods program. The partnership allows SFAs to use USDA Foods entitlement dollars to purchase fresh produce. DoD vendors offer a wide variety of high quality, American-grown produce, including pre-cuts, pre-packed, as well as locally and regionally grown produce. Participating SFAs place orders directly through an easy-to-use DoD online ordering website.

For the 2017-18 School Year Annual Order/Survey, schools have the option to participate in or commit to this program by entering an entitlement commitment on the Annual Order/Survey that is due by **March 3, 2017**. A minimum allocation of \$400 entitlement commitment must be entered on the annual order/survey. For further details on the entry of the DoD entitlement commitment via the annual order, please refer to the Ordering Instructions on the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) website: dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/doc/commodityorderinst.doc.

PLEASE NOTE: The allocation of entitlement dollars to this program is a school year commitment. Any unused entitlement dollars will be lost at the end of the school year. Since USDA does not rollover unused entitlement into the next school year, DPI will assess each SFA's DoD entitlement commitment balance annually, in March. For SFAs that have significant balances, little activity, and/or non-activity, DPI reserves the right to reallocate unused entitlement commitment dollars to other SFAs.

For further details of the program, please visit our website at dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/usda/dod-fresh.